



# CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

## 24-HOUR REPORT

19 AUGUST 2020

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### (U) CALIFORNIA

#### (U) Sacramento – Governor Declares State of Emergency as it Fights Fires and Extreme Weather

(U) Governor Newsom declared a state of emergency Tuesday to ensure that the state gets vital resources amid wildfires that have aggravated a stifling heat wave. At least 27 fires are raging across the state, including some caused by lightning from a rare summer thunderstorm Sunday. The flames have intensified temperatures from a serious heat wave that rolled in over the weekend. The state has been under threat of rolling blackouts since Friday, as high temperatures have stretched the state's energy grid to its limits.

SOURCE: 18 August 2020, [NBC News](#)

#### (U) Saticoy – Man Arrested for Allegedly Ramming a Patrol Vehicle in an Unprovoked Attack

(U) Frankie Avalos, 28, is being accused of attempted murder after allegedly ramming a Ventura County Sheriff's Office patrol vehicle twice while it was being driven by a sergeant. The incident occurred about 2:15 AM, while the sergeant was driving along the Santa Clara River Bridge. The suspect allegedly sped up from behind the sergeant and rammed into the back of the marked patrol vehicle. Deputies later spotted Avalos' vehicle and tried to stop him, but a high-speed pursuit ensued when he refused to yield. Avalos eventually stopped his vehicle and ran away, but was apprehended by deputies. The sergeant was taken to the hospital with minor injuries.

SOURCE: 18 August 2020, [KTLA 5](#)

### (U) SOUTHWEST BORDER

#### (U) Arizona – Teens with Nearly \$2 Million in Narcotics Arrested at Arizona-Mexico Border

(U) Rio Rico – Two 18-year-old Arizona residents were arrested near the Mexico border after US Customs and Border Protection found nearly \$2 million worth of smuggled methamphetamine, cocaine, and heroin in their truck. The arrest by Border Patrol agents near Rio Rico happened after other people were seen emerging from some brush and placing packages in the parked truck. It is not uncommon for people on foot to travel from Mexico into the US through mountainous or remote terrain, drop off drugs and return to Mexico. They are typically employed by transnational criminal organizations. The 18-year-olds are residents of Rio Rico, a community of about 19,000 north of the border at Nogales.

SOURCE: 18 August 2020, [NBC News](#)

### (U) NATIONAL

#### (U) Massachusetts – Copycat Hacking Groups Launch Distributed Denial of Services Attacks

(U) Cambridge – Copycats using well-known threat actor names, such as Fancy Bear and Armada Collective, are launching extortion campaigns tied to distributed denial-of-service (DDoS) attacks against financial institutions, according to cybersecurity experts at Akamai Technologies. Akamai believes these are copycat actors leveraging threat actor names in order to scare targeted victims into paying money. About a dozen of these DDoS attacks have taken place in the US and UK since the start of the month. So far Akamai is unaware of any organizations known to have paid a ransom after being threatened with

one of the DDoS attacks. The groups behind the campaign are also currently unknown.

SOURCE: 18 August 2020, [BankInfo Security](#)

**(U) Washington – Routine Traffic Stop Leads to Multi-Million Dollar Drug Bust**

(U) Snoqualmie – A Washington Trooper found 10-pounds of fentanyl and two-pounds of heroin when he pulled a woman over on Interstate-90. The woman had been driving too close to the car in front of her and appeared extremely nervous. After receiving consent to search the vehicle, the Trooper found nearly \$6.5 million worth of fentanyl and \$75,000 worth of heroin inside a lunch bag behind the driver's seat. This is the second multi-million-dollar fentanyl bust in three weeks for Snohomish county.

SOURCE: 18 August 2020, [King5 News](#)

**(U) INTERNATIONAL**

**(U) India – National Investigation Agency Arrests Doctor for Developing Application for ISIS**

(U) Bengaluru – 28-year-old ophthalmologist, Dr. Abdul Rahman was arrested for alleged links to Islamic State-Khorasan Province (ISKP), an offshoot of the Islamic State in Iraq and ash-Sham (ISIS). Dr. Rahman confessed to officials that he had conspired with Syria-based operatives through secure messaging platforms to develop a medical application to help injured ISIS members and a weaponry-related application for ISIS fighters. In 2014, Rahman visited an ISIS medical camp in Syria for 10 days to treat ISIS fighters. Rahman also worked as an informant for ISIS leaders regarding Indian national politics.

SOURCE: 19 August 2020, [Times of India](#)

**(U) Germany – Car Crash Suspect Cited Islamic Extremism Motives and had Psychological Problems**

(U) Berlin – Police arrested a 30-year-old man for apparently deliberate crashes on a German motorway on Tuesday evening. The suspect hit several motorcyclists with his car, leaving six people wounded, three of them seriously. The suspect cited Islamic extremist motives and appears to have acted alone. Police also indicated the suspect had psychological problems and did not appear to be a member of any terror group.

SOURCE: 19 August 2020, [Reuters](#)

**(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.**

**(U) FOR QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, PLEASE EMAIL [STAC@CALOES.CA.GOV](mailto:STAC@CALOES.CA.GOV), OR CALL 916-636-2900.**